

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all claims previous listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of aiding in the identification of ~~identifying a an~~ infecting pathogen comprising the steps of:
 - a) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells from an infected mammal; and
 - b) analyzing ~~determining~~ gene expression profile in said dendritic cells ~~of at least one stimulus-specific gene~~,wherein increased or decreased expression of ~~a stimulus~~ at least one pathogen-specific gene relative to the expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aid in identification of the infecting pathogen ~~is indicative of infection by a pathogen to which the stimulus-specific gene is specific.~~
- 2.-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) A method of aiding in the identification of an infecting ~~identifying~~ a pathogen in a mammal comprising the steps of:
 - a) contacting immature dendritic cells with a pathogen or an immunogenic ~~components~~ components thereof;
 - b) isolating and labeling mRNA from said dendritic cells;
 - c) detecting labeled mRNA from said dendritic cells such that a gene expression profile is produced; ~~and~~
 - d) analyzing the gene expression profile relative to one or more reference gene expression profile(s) such that at least one ~~stimulus~~ pathogen-specific gene is identified ~~thereby identifying a pathogen for which the stimulus-specific gene is specific;~~
 - e) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells from an infected mammal; and
 - f) determining expression of at least one pathogen-specific gene identified in step d) in the isolated mRNA of step e).

wherein increased or decreased expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) relative to the expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aids in identification of the infecting pathogen in the mammal.

6.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of aiding in the diagnosis of ~~diagnosing~~ infection by a pathogen in a mammal comprising the steps of:

- a) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells from the in a mammal;
- b) analyzing ~~determining~~ gene expression profile in said dendritic cells of at least one stimulus-specific gene,

wherein increased or decreased expression of ~~a stimulus~~ at least one pathogen-specific gene relative to the expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aids in diagnosis of ~~is indicative of~~ infection by the a pathogen ~~to which the stimulus-specific gene is specific~~.

10.-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A method of aiding in the identification of an infecting ~~identifying~~ a pathogen comprising the steps of:

- a) contacting one or more immature dendritic cells with ~~a stimulus~~ the pathogen;
- b) isolating mRNA from said dendritic cells; and
- c) determining a gene expression profile in said dendritic cells and analyzing the gene expression profile relative to one or more reference gene expression profile(s) such that at least one stimulus~~pathogen-specific gene is identified thereby identifying a pathogen for which the stimulus-specific gene is specific~~;
- d) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells from an infected mammal;
- e) determining expression of at least one pathogen-specific gene identified in step c) in the isolated mRNA of step d),

wherein increased or decreased expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) relative to the expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aids in the identification of the infecting pathogen.

52.-58. (Cancelled)

59. (New) A method of aiding in the diagnosis of infection by a pathogen in a mammal comprising the steps of:
- a) contacting immature dendritic cells with the pathogen or an immunogenic components thereof;
 - b) isolating mRNA from said dendritic cells;
 - c) determining gene expression profile in said dendritic cells;
 - d) analyzing the gene expression profile relative to one or more reference gene expression profile(s) such that at least one pathogen-specific gene is identified;
 - e) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells in an infected mammal; and
 - f) determining expression of at least one pathogen-specific gene identified in step d) in the isolated mRNA of step e),
- wherein increased or decreased expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) relative to the expression of pathogen specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aids in diagnosis of infection by the pathogen.